UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/888,970	06/25/2001	Adrian E. Ong	M-9820 US	1405

7590 12/27/2005

Philip W. Woo
Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP
555 California Street
Suite 5000
San Fransico, CA 94104-1715

EXAMINER	
CHANG, DANIEL D	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2819	

DATE MAILED: 12/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/888,970	ONG, ADRIAN E.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Daniel D. Chang	2819

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *14 October 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Acknowledgement

Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed October 14, 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Balamurugan et al. (US 6,320,795 B1, "Balamurugan", hereinafter).

Regarding claim 14, Balamurugan discloses, in Figs. 1 and 2, a system for driving a data signal, comprising:

a plurality of bit lines (16 lines connecting 14 from 50 in Fig. 2 or 37 in Fig. 1);

a data bus (14) having a plurality of bus lines (see col. 2, lines 39+), wherein each bus line is connectable (by 42 in Fig. 2 or 30/32 in Fig. 1) to a respective portion of the plurality of bit lines;

a charging circuit (16) coupled to at least one of the bus lines of the data bus, wherein the charging circuit is configured to pre-charge (by 20) the at least one of the bus lines of the data bus (line 14) to a first voltage level (18) in advance of driving a first type of data signal (data signal from first register file cell 10 or 40) or a second type of data signal (data signal from second register file cell 10 or 40) across the at least one of the bus lines.

Regarding claim 15, Balamurugan discloses, in Fig. 1 a keeper circuit (24) coupled to the at least one of the bus lines of the data bus, wherein the keeper circuit is configured to maintain the at least one of the bus lines of the data bus at the first voltage level after the at least one of the bus lines of the data bus has been charged.

Regarding claim 16, Balamurugan discloses, in Fig. 2 that the pull-down circuit comprises:

a transistor (42) coupled at one end to the at least one of the bus lines of the data bus and at the other end to ground;

logic circuitry (44) coupled to a gate of the transistor, wherein an output signal from the logic circuitry controls the transistor.

Regarding claim 17, Balamurugan discloses, in Fig. 2 that the logic circuitry comprises a first input terminal (48) for receiving an equilibration signal and a second input terminal (50) for receiving a data signal.

Regarding claim 18, Balamurugan discloses, in Fig. 2 that the logic circuitry comprises a NOR gate (44).

Regarding claim 19, Balamurugan discloses, in Fig. 2 that the charging circuit comprises:

a transistor (16) coupled at one end to a power supply voltage source and at the other end to the at least one of the bus lines of the data bus , wherein the transistor is controlled by an equilibration signal (20).

Regarding claim 20, Balamurugan discloses, in Fig. 1 the keeper circuit comprises:

a transistor (26) coupled at one end to a power supply voltage source and at the other end to the at least one of the bus lines of the data bus; and

logic circuitry (28) coupled to a gate of the transistor, wherein an output signal from the logic circuitry controls the transistor.

Regarding claim 21, Balamurugan discloses, in Fig. 1 the logic circuitry comprises an inverter gate (28).

Regarding claim 24, Balamurugan discloses, in Fig. 1, a pull-down circuit (30, 32 in Fig. 1; 42 in Fig. 2) coupled to the at least one of the bus lines of the data bus (line 14), wherein the pull-down circuit is configured to pull the at least one of the bus lines of the data bus to a second voltage level (36).

Method claims 1-2, 4-13, 22, and 23 are essentially the same in scope as apparatus claims 14-21 and 24 and are rejected similarly.

Regarding claim 3, as for the recitation, "the first voltage level is about 1.8 Volts", it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. Ex parte Masham, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed October 14, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues, on page 6, that "the examiner's rejection of claims 1-24 depends on a distorted interpretation of the prior art" and "it is completely inappropriate for the Examiner to redefine the elements in Balamurugan et al." However, Examiner believes that it is appropriate to interpret the element in issue, namely "bit line" as a data bus. A data bus or a bit line is nothing but a conductor carrying a signal. In same way that a man can be called as "a father" of children

or "a husband" of a wife, or "a son" of parents, a wire or a conductor can be called as a bit line or a data bus. As mentioned in the previous action, the PTO applies to the verbiage of the proposed claims the broadest reasonable meaning of the words in their ordinary usage as they would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art," *In re Morris*, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Therefore, the previous rejection is appropriate and maintained.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel D. Chang whose telephone number is (571) 272-1801. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rexford Barnie can be reached on (571) 272-7492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Daniel D. Chang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2819

dc

DANIEL CHANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER